ST VINCENT’S SCHOOL KWINANA
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

VISION STATEMENT

In a happy, supportive environment
each person is encouraged to
nurture Gospel values as a responsible member of
a faith-sharing community.
ST VINCENT’S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

GOALS

♦ provide a happy, trusting and secure environment, which is above all Christian, so that the children can develop as confident and independent learners

♦ accept the individuality of each person

♦ encourage each person to reflect Christian values in their daily lives and activities

♦ promote the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional and social development of each child

♦ provide the child with the life skills necessary to approach the future with confidence

♦ encourage an open and positive relationship with the wider community

♦ develop in each person a respect for the dignity of self and others

♦ foster an awareness of the need to respect our world

♦ achieve each of these goals because Jesus is our model
TEACHING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In Western Australia in all Catholic Schools it is mandatory to teach the content of the Religious Education Units provided by the Catholic Education Office. Teachers of Religious Education must be in the process of or have completed Accreditation ‘B’. Religious Education lessons are taught daily. The Units may be taught in any order. There is no prescribed set sequence. Teachers make a choice to select the content for their lesson. It is not possible to cover all the content in the Units. There is too much information. This allows for variety over the years. Select and cover all the numbered points’ e.g. 1, 2, 3 and 4, etc. Each Unit should conclude with the Responding Section.

Kindergarten has no formal content.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL 1</th>
<th>PP – YEAR 1</th>
<th>12 UNITS PER YEAR</th>
<th>3 UNITS PER TERM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEVEL 2</td>
<td>YR 2 – YR 3</td>
<td>8 UNITS PER YEAR</td>
<td>2 UNITS PER TERM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEVEL 3</td>
<td>YR 4 – YR 5</td>
<td>8 UNITS PER YEAR</td>
<td>2 UNITS PER TERM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEVEL 4</td>
<td>YR 6</td>
<td>8 UNITS PER YEAR</td>
<td>2 UNITS PER TERM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All the Units marked ‘A’ belong to the lower grades in the four Levels and all the Units marked ‘B’ belong to the upper grades.

Time Allocation

The following time allowances are necessary for the Religious Education Learning Area. Pre-Primary and Year 1 – 15 minutes per day, Year (2 – 6) 30 minutes per day. Religious Education must be taught each day and does not include prayer, masses or observance of special days.

THE SACRAMENTS

Parents are the first educators of their children. Parents enrol their children in the St Vincent’s Parish Sacramental Programme for preparation to receive the Sacrament of Penance, the Sacrament of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confirmation. Children in Year Three and up, who have been baptised, may enrol for preparation for the Sacrament of Penance and children in Year Four and up, who have been baptised and have received the Sacrament of Penance, may enrol for preparation for Holy Communion. These classes are held after school from 3:30 to 4:15pm in blocks of eight weeks for each Sacrament. Class Teachers volunteer as Catechists for these classes. There are two Parent Meetings per Sacrament, which are run by the Parish Priest, Parish Co-ordinator and the APRE.

Teachers also cover the Sacraments in class in the RE lessons. It is important to cover lessons on the Sacraments during the same period the children attend the Parish Sacramental Programme. The Sacrament Units should NOT be taught at a later date.

Year 3 prepare for the Sacrament of Penance.
Year 4 prepare for the Sacrament of First Communion.
Year 6 prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
ST VINCENT’S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY (Cont...)

ASSEMBLIES - Classes take it in turn to prepare a prayer for Assembly each week.

RESOURCES to aid with the teaching of the RE Units are listed at the end of each unit. The Catholic Library (CEO) Catalogue is also available for resources. Order forms can be filled out and placed in the courier pouch (Mail West Bag) in the Admin Office, by Thursday of any week. Your order will be sent to the School by the following Friday. Resources must be placed for return, by the Mail West service, by Thursday. The loan is for ONE week only.

MASSES
During the year teachers are asked to prepare Mass liturgies to celebrate important times in the liturgical calendar such as Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Advent, Christmas and special Feast Days. Parents and members of the Parish are always welcome at these celebrations. Masses are held in St Vincent’s Church at 9:00am on weekdays. The Sacrament of Penance - Rite of Reconciliation is held in the Church, for Years 6, 5, 4 and 3. Each class is encouraged to attend a Parish Weekday Mass during the year.

SINGING PRACTICE - Liturgical singing practice takes place in the Church when needed to practise for a forthcoming Mass. New songs and hymns are introduced and practised during music time.

PRAYER is a personal response to God’s presence. Prayer involves the whole person and cannot be merely an intellectual exercise using thoughts and words. Prayer is a daily occurrence in each class and when the School gathers as a whole. There are many ways of communicating with God. The children need opportunities to experience situations that are:

- **FORMAL** - to learn words, songs and gestures that will help them to pray.
- **SILENT** - when they can tell God their secrets.
- **SPONTANEOUS** - to share aloud a prayer after a moment of silence.
- **PRIVATE** - to listen as well as speak to God.
- **PUBLIC** - to express confidence and trust in Him and to grow in His life and love.

CLASS PRAYER - SET TIMES
Morning prayer to start the day.
Say Grace at lunch time.
Say farewell at the time of dismissal.
ST VINCENT’S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY (Cont...)

The following prayers are known at the year levels indicated:

**PRE PRIMARY**
- Sign of the Cross
- Introduction to the Our Father and Hail Mary
- Prayer before meals

**YEAR ONE**
- The above, plus:
  - Our Father
  - Hail Mary
  - Glory be to the Father
  - Simple Grace before meals

**YEAR TWO**
- The above, plus:
  - Responses at Mass
    - The Lord be with you
    - And also with you
  - Let us bless the Lord
  - Thanks be to God
  - This is the word of the Lord
  - Thanks be to God
  - This is the gospel of the Lord
  - Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ
  - Let us proclaim the mystery of faith
  - Christ has died; Christ has risen:
  - Christ will come again

**YEAR THREE**
- The above, plus:
  - Act of Sorrow
  - Simple Morning Offering

**YEAR FOUR**
- The above, plus:
  - Rosary
  - Responses at Mass
    - Lamb of God
    - Lord Have Mercy
    - Holy, Holy
    - Memorial Acclamation
      - Dying you destroyed our death
      - Rising you restored our life
      - Lord Jesus come in glory
ST VINCENT’S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY (Cont...)

YEAR FIVE
The above, plus:
Creed: “I believe in God”
Gloria: “Glory to God in the Highest”
All Mass Responses

YEAR SIX
ALL responses of the Mass and Prayers: Gloria, Creed
Penitential Rite: “I Confess to Almighty God”